

CONGRATULATING ST. GERMAINE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THEIR  
SELECTION AS A NATIONAL  
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Germaine Catholic School of Oak Lawn, Illinois as they are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a prime example of excellence in education.

Since the establishment of St. Germaine Parish by Fr. Walter Sheridan in 1962, education has been a priority for this community. With the diligent support of the Sisters of the Presentation, the parish school opened in 1964 and began a tradition of exceptional education in not only academics but also the teachings of faith.

In the years since its founding, St. Germaine has consistently been noted for its achievement in bringing quality education to its students. On October 2, 2007, St. Germaine was designated a national Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings.

This distinguished award, given to those schools that are either academically superior or have demonstrated dramatic gains in student achievement, was presented to only 287 schools throughout the country. This award places St. Germaine in the top 10 percent of our Nation's schools.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend St. Germaine Catholic School on this extraordinary achievement. I am proud to have in my district a school that does so much to produce the educated and moral citizens who will lead our Nation in the future.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R.  
760, THE "FILIPINO VETERANS  
EQUITY ACT OF 2007"

### HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep support for H.R. 760, the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007."

The treatment of Filipinos who fought with the United States Armed Forces in World War II is a dark chapter in American history. The Philippines became a United States possession after Spain ceded it as part of the treaty ending the Spanish-American War in 1898. In 1934, Congress created a 10-year time frame for independence through the "Philippine Independence Act." However, since the Philippines remained a colonial possession until 1946 the United States retained the right to call upon military forces organized by the Philippine Government into the United States Armed Forces.

On July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a military order that brought the Philippine Commonwealth Forces under the control of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. These men bravely fought with our own troops during the war, and

many perished or suffered severe wounds from the battles in the Western Pacific Theater. After the surrender of Japan, Congress required the Philippine Forces to continue their service. Many helped occupy lands, many oversaw military operations, and many made the ultimate sacrifice to secure our victory in World War II. Yet, when wartime service ended formally in 1946 they did not receive the same benefits and the same treatment as other American soldiers.

Yet, for all their heroic and courageous actions, Congress passed the "Recession Act" in February 1946, to the objection of many, including General MacArthur. This essentially denied Filipino Veterans any of the benefits that their American comrades in arms received; including full access to veterans' health care, service-connected disability compensation, non-service connected disability compensation, dependent indemnity compensation, death pension, and full burial benefits. No other group of veterans has been systematically denied these benefits.

Congress has the opportunity to right this wrong. H.R. 760 restores the benefits these brave warriors were denied. This legislation has been introduced since 1992. However, time is running out. In September 2000, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimated that the number of surviving Filipino Veterans is 59,889. However, by 2010, VA estimates that their population will dwindle to just 20,000, because of their advanced age.

Many argue that paying for Filipino veterans is not something Congress should undertake, because they are not U.S. citizens, and that the PAYGO offsets takes money away from Americans. However, such a statement fails to recognize that Filipino veterans served not merely as allies, but as U.S. forces. It fails to recognize that the United States made the same promise to provide for these veterans' needs as it does to any other person who serves in uniform; a promise that we have, up to now, failed to uphold.

Congress must act now for the sake of justice and to show that we Americans truly appreciate the sacrifice these men made. Let us remember the heroism of these veterans by honoring their service and fulfilling our commitments to them. I urge the House to consider and pass this important measure.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOP-  
MENT ACT OF 2007—VETO MES-  
SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we must help ensure our communities are protected during times of severe flooding that can lead to loss of life and destroyed homes and businesses. This summer we have witnessed devastating floods all across America, including in central and eastern Kansas. Thousands of my constituents lost their homes and their businesses, many of which have not yet fully recovered.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (H.R. 1495) authorizes many new

projects that will afford our communities protection from catastrophic flooding for generations to come. It will also help ensure that existing flood control structures are properly cared for so our economy can continue thriving in areas currently protected from floods. We must prepare for the future rather than merely respond to disasters after they occur. Prevention is much better than responding to a natural disaster, especially when loss of life occurs.

A WRDA bill has not been enacted for the past 7 years, which helps explain why the price tag is so significant. While I would have preferred to see a less expensive authorization bill, I believe it is time we move forward with many of the needed flood control projects included in H.R. 1495.

Having witnessed the severe flooding in my district this year, I am reminded of the critical need for flood prevention that saves lives and protects communities. I have seen first-hand what a flooded community looks like when adequate flood control is not provided. And I have seen how well Corps of Engineers levees have worked to keep high floodwaters out of homes and businesses.

This is why I support overriding the President's veto. I would have preferred for a compromise to be reached with the Administration; but in this instance, we need to move forward without further delay in the process. Protecting our homes and businesses from flood waters is a bi-partisan priority that trumps Washington politics.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on November 6, 2007, I was unable to be present for two rollcall votes due to technological complications with my vote notification system.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: roll No. 1044—"nay," and roll No. 1045—"aye."

CELEBRATING PHILADELPHIA-  
MONTGOMERY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY'S  
VETERANS HISTORY  
PROJECT PARTICIPATION

### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Philadelphia-Montgomery Christian Academy in Springfield Township, PA on their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Students and teachers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these students and teachers in Congress.

The Veterans History Project preserves the legacy of those who have served through the